

[REDACTED]

From: Melissa Bliss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 3:58 PM
To: BCC OLSR
Subject: Docket #16-AR-01
Attachments: WMUsStatementonCivilityv6.docx

Please see the attached.

Melissa J. Bliss,
City Clerk

City of Three Rivers
333 W. Michigan Ave
Three Rivers, MI 49093
Ph: 269-273-1632/ Fax: 269-273-3132
mbliss@threeriversmi.org

From: Shafer, Eric [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 11:43 AM
To: bccolsr@michigan.gov
Cc: Hoffmaster, Jared [REDACTED]; Joe Bippus (joe@threeriversmi.org); christytrammell@trchamber.com
Subject: Sports Complex Public Hearing

My sincere apologies but my schedule will not allow me to make the public hearing on the sports complex tonight. In talking with Christy Trammell, Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce Director, I understand that an email to the above address will allow me to voice an opinion even if I cannot be at the hearing in person.

I do have the following comments:

I am a resident of Lockport Township and am in favor of the complex. My address is: [REDACTED] Three Rivers, MI. 49093

It sounds like the biggest controversy is over the location of the complex not the idea. I know that the committee reviewed other locations and found the current one to be the most favorable. In my opinion:

- a. No matter what location is chosen there will be people against it.
- b. In various passing conversations that I have had with several abutting residents they are in favor of the location because:
 - i. It will allow them access to an open area when the sports complex is not in use.
 - ii. It is likely that the use of the complex will not go into the late night and, therefore, this use could be much less of a nuisance than many other potential uses. The property is likely to be developed in the future and this use would, in their opinion, be better than a shopping mall or more houses.

- iii. The committee has taken local resident's comments into account by designing separation berms along the property line, a walking path along the perimeter, etc.
- iv. The property is currently used by four wheelers which are causing a noise nuisance to the local residents.

I am a board member of the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce which recently passed a motion in favor of the complex. We (the Chamber) believe that the complex would be good for local businesses.

Finally, I am very disturbed by the way in which those who are against the complex make the issue much less of a debate than a vitriolic diatribe against anyone who disagrees with them. In my opinion this kind of behavior is inappropriate and an embarrassment to our community. I am attaching a recent "Statement of Civility" policy that was written and adopted by Western Michigan University. It is a policy that I believe should be adopted by all public organizations.

Sincerely;

Eric Shafer, Lockport Township Resident

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Version: 2016.0.7924 / Virus Database: 4739/13584 - Release Date: 12/13/16

Western Michigan University Statement on Civility (2/10/16)

Western Michigan University is committed to creating and sustaining an environment that honors the inherent dignity and worth of all members of the WMU community. Respectful behavior expressed verbally, in writing, visually, and physically should be the norm in all university communications and venues including classrooms, meetings, forums, events, social media, and residential communities.

As an institution of higher education, we welcome a diverse range of perspectives and opinions and uphold the importance of civil debate. We fully support the free exchange of ideas and beliefs, as well as the expression of provocative or less popular ideas. It is through this process that we generate knowledge and deepen our understanding of humanity.

Freedom of thought and expression may create conflict, strong emotions, and divergent ideological positions. While these effects are expected and welcomed, all members of the community have a responsibility to behave in a manner that does not harm others nor create a hostile environment. Behavior that attacks, humiliates, belittles, or conveys personal hatred towards others diminishes our thriving and safe university environment.

Each member of our academic community is encouraged to be thoughtful and sensitive in their choice of words and behaviors. We should be aware of how our behavior affects others. Furthermore, we carry a responsibility to challenge those who communicate intolerance, hatred, and bigotry. Words and actions matter. Everyone is asked to do their part in creating a healthy and positive university community and a culture that truly values each member's uniqueness, experiences, and perspectives.